UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
INFORMATION BRANCH
30 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO 2, CALIFORNIA

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News Service

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Feb. 4, 1949)

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 1--- The line-up on fruit buys in the San Francisco wholesale fruit and vegetable market is practically the same as for last week. California Newtown apples are still a Fairly Good Buy, while grapes, grapefruit, and pears (slightly higher) are Fair Buys.

Avocados are slightly lower but still high priced, as are lemons and oranges.

Among the vegetables, hard squash (Banana & Hubbard), cabbage, and dry onions are Good Buys.

In the Fair Buy class this week are carrots, potatoes, and bunched vegetables (carrots, beets, turnips, parsley).

All other items have been affected by adverse weather conditions to result in lighter supplies and higher prices.

MORE

Last week's trading in the San Francisco wholesale meat market was slower than for the previous week. Even though slaughter was lighter, all supplies were not cleared. Consumers probably will pay less for beef and smoked and cured pork products in retail markets. Wholesale prices have dropped $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight on beef carcasses and $2.00 to $4.00 on many beef cuts. Unevenly lower prices on smoked skinned No. 1 hams range $1.00 to $3.00 lower per hundredweight, while prices on smoked bacon are down $2.00 to $3.00. Prices have been somewhat unsettled on refined lard but are mostly $1.00 per hundredweight lower. Veal, lamb, and fresh pork have all held about unchanged in price and in fairly active demand.

Fairly liberal supplies of butter have held unchanged in price from last week in the San Francisco wholesale market. Grades AA&A(1st Quality) are quoted to retailers at 72 to 74 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. And Grade B(2nd Quality) butter is quoted to retailers at 70½ to 72 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. Demand has been a little on the slow side.

Eggs are in good supply and 5 cents lower than last week. Receipts from local sources have been only moderate because of the cold weather, but shipments from other areas have been heavy. Grade "A" Large eggs in cartons are quoted to retailers at 58 to 59 cents per dozen, Grade "A" Mediums at 56 to 57 cents, and Grade "A" Smalls at 52 cents per dozen.

In the wholesale poultry market, fairly liberal supplies of all classes of dressed poultry are unchanged in price from last week. Quotations to retailers are 43 to 46 cents per pound on broilers, 48 to 50 cents on small colored fryers, 49 to 50 cents on large colored fryers, 50 to 52 cents on colored roasters, 44 to 45 cents on small Leghorn hens, 45 to 46 cents on large Leghorn hens, and 52 to 53 cents on colored hens. Young hen turkeys are quoted at 70 to 73 cents per pound, and young tom turkeys at 60 to 62 cents.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Feb. 11, 1949)

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 8---In the San Francisco wholesale fruit and vegetable market, California Newtown apples and grapes are Fairly Good Buys this week.

Lemons are still high. And oranges are higher priced this week -- both large and small sizes.

Pears are up in price, while avocados remain in the expensive class.

Best Buys in vegetables include dry onions and hard squash (banana & Hubbard).

Cabbage and potatoes are Fairly Good Buys, followed by carrots and cauliflower as Fair Buys.

Hothouse rhubarb is beginning to appear in the market -- high in price, of course.

MORE

For the past week, meat supplies in the San Francisco wholesale meat market have been more than ample for the very limited demand. Beef has continued the downward price trend of recent weeks, with steer, heifer and cow beef all down $1.00 to $2.00. Veal and calf carcasses have dropped $2.00 to $4.00 on quality of mostly Commercial and Utility grades. On lamb, Good and Choice grades have held unchanged in price. But the supply of lamb has shown effects of freezing weather, with Commercial grade plentiful and down $1.00. Fresh pork carcasses have been in fair demand at unchanged prices, while pork loins have sold on a wide price concession $2.00 to $4.00 lower. All prices are on a per hundredweight basis. Smoked hams and bacon, as well as lard, have been in slow demand at unchanged prices.

In the wholesale butter market, demand has been only fair for quite liberal supplies. Prices are unchanged from last week on top quality, with grades A&AA(1st Quality) quoted to retailers at 72 to 74 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. Grade B(2nd Quality) in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints is 2 cents lower at a quotation of 68½ to 70 cents per pound to retailers.

Eggs have continued their seasonal trend of heavier production and lower prices. All Grade "A" eggs have dropped 3 cents per dozen since last week, with Grade "A" Large in cartons quoted to retailers at 55 to 56 cents per dozen, Mediums at 53 to 54 cents, and Smalls at 49 cents per dozen.

Less demand for ample supplies of dressed poultry in the wholesale market has resulted in lower prices on several classes. Broilers, though, have been in lighter supply and have advanced 1 to 2 cents per pound since last week. Fryers are 3 to 4 cents per pound lower; roasters are down 4 cents; all weights of Leghorn hens are 3 cents lower; and colored hens are 1-cent lower.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Feb. 18, 1949)

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 15---There's practically no change from last week in the San Francisco wholesale market on fruits. California Newtown apples and grapes (slightly higher) are still Fairly Good Buys.

Pears are slightly higher priced, but the Winter Nelis variety can be considered a Fair Buy, along with grapefruit.

Oranges are higher this week, while lemons and avocados remain high.

In the vegetable department, carrots (lower), cabbage, and dry onions are the week's Best Buys.

Cauliflower and potatoes rank as Fairly Good Buys.

Peppers are lower priced this week and a Fair Buy -- considering the season of year -- as is Hubbard squash at slightly higher prices.

Among the more expensive items, celery, eggplant, Florida snap beans, and tomatoes are all slightly lower priced. Other high-priced vegetables include: artichokes, broccoli, cucumbers, lettuce, mushrooms, rhubarb (more plentiful), spinach, and sweetpotatoes.

MORE

In the San Francisco wholesale meat market this past week, supplies of beef have been ample for the rather restricted demand. But supplies of veal, mutton and fresh pork have been hardly large enough to meet their demand. And a fairly good demand for the light lamb slaughter has kept supplies of that class well sold up. Beef has continued its downward price trend, with steer and cow carcasses $1.00 to $2.00 lower per hundredweight, and beef cuts mostly $2.00 to $3.00 lower. Veal has been running mostly to Utility and Low-Good grades at unchanged prices. Good and Choice grades of lamb have held unchanged in price. Truck and rail shipments of fresh pork were somewhat delayed during the week, but for the most part prices held unchanged. Smoked hams and bacon dropped $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight. And refined lard packed in 1-lb. cartons dropped 50 cents per hundredweight.

Butter is still being quoted to retailers at unchanged prices in the San Francisco wholesale market. Grades A&AA(1st Quality) are quoted to retailers at 72 to 74 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints, while Grade B(2nd Quality) is quoted at 68½ to 70 cents per pound. Supplies are fairly liberal, although creamery butter production in the west declined 5 percent below the previous week for the week ended Feb. 10.

Egg prices to retailers are also unchanged from a week ago. Grade "A" Large eggs in cartons are quoted at 55 to 56 cents per dozen, Mediums at 53 to 54 cents, and Grade "A" Smalls at 49 cents per dozen. Local receipts have been heavier, while demand has been somewhat slower.

Less demand for liberal supplies of dressed poultry has resulted in price drops on most classes. Broilers are 2 cents lower than last week; fryers are down 3 cents; roasters are 3 to 4 cents lower; and all weights of Leghorn hens are down 1-cent per pound. Turkeys in slow demand have also dropped in price, with young hens down 1-cent per pound, and young toms 2 cents lower.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Feb. 25, 1949)

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 21--- In the San Francisco wholesale fruit and vegetable market, California Newtown apples remain a Fairly Good Buy.

Grapes (about unchanged in price), pears, and grapefruit (slightly higher priced) are Fair Buys.

Lemons are slightly lower priced but still expensive, as are avocados and oranges.

Carrots and dry onions rank as the week's Best Buys among the vegetables.

Cabbage, cauliflower and potatoes are next in line as Fairly Good Buys, while peppers, spinach and hard squash (banana & Hubbard) are Fair Buys.

In the high-priced bracket are artichokes, Florida snap beans, Brussels sprouts, broccoli (more plentiful and slightly lower), celery, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, mushrooms, sweetpotatoes, and tomatoes.

MORE

In contrast to the trend for the past several weeks in the San Francisco wholesale meat market, prices advanced $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight on steer and heifer beef carcasses during the last week. Cow beef held unchanged. Many beef cuts failed to clear, however, and prices were generally $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight lower. Most of the veal offered was of Utility to Commercial grade and was in slow demand at unchanged prices. The first spring lambs of the season were received, with prices holding unchanged on Good and Choice grades of lamb. Some rail shipments of pork products were delayed, but truck receipts came through. Pork loins were in light supply and advanced $2.00 per hundredweight. And refined lard packed in one-pound cartons went up 50 cents per hundredweight. Smoked hams and bacon have been in little demand but have held unchanged in price.

Butter prices are 1-cent higher than last Tuesday, with Grades A&AA (1st Quality) quoted to retailers at 73 to 75 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints, and Grade B(2nd Quality) quoted at 69 1/2 to 71 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. Unfavorable weather has caused supplies to be temporarily limited. For the week ended Feb. 10, creamery butter production in the west was 5 percent below the previous week, and 6 percent below the same week last year. And shipments from the Mid-west have been delayed because of weather conditions.

Egg production is lagging and is lighter than normal for this time of year. However, supplies are generally ample for all needs. Prices are little changed from last Tuesday. Grade "A" Large eggs in cartons are quoted unchanged to retailers at 55 to 56 cents per dozen, as are Grade "A" Mediums at 53 to 54 cents per dozen. Grade "A" Smalls are 2 cents lower and quoted to retailers at 47 cents per dozen in cartons.

In the San Francisco wholesale market, most classes of dressed poultry are lower priced than last week. Less demand for liberal supplies is the reason. Fryers (colored all weights) are an exception and are 1 to 2 cents per pound higher. Broilers and all weights of Leghorn hens are down 1-cent per pound; colored hens are 2 cents lower; and young hen and tom turkeys are around 2 cents lower. Dressed rabbits are also selling 1 to 2 cents per pound lower.

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